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## NEWS FROM CSPI

### Irradiate This

One way to eliminate *E. coli* and other  
potentially harmful bacteria in ground beef,  
chicken, and other foods is to irradiate them.

Irradiation's big plus: It kills bugs dead.  
But there are a few reasons to be concerned  
about the process. It involves moving  
radioactive material around the country—  
always a risky proposition. And it doesn't  
prevent sloppy handling at the plant, at  
home, or in restaurants, which could recon-  
taminates food after it's been zapped.

Whether you can't wait to buy irradiated  
beef and other products or you're deter-  
mined to avoid them, one thing is clear:  
Consumers need to be able to identify irradi-  
ated foods at the supermarket and in restau-  
rants. That's what nine out of ten people  
said in a nationally representative telephone  
poll of 1,000 adults that we commissioned in  
June of 1996.

If you agree, please write or e-mail the offi-  
cials listed below and tell them that irradi-  
ated foods need to carry a prominent disclo-  
sure, in easy-to-read type, on the front of the  
package. Thank you.

Thomas J. Billy, FSIS Administrator  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rm. 331-E  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250  
(Tom.Billy@usda.gov)

Jane E. Henney, FDA Commissioner  
(see coupon for address and e-mail)

### Unconscientious Resisters

Antibiotics kill bacteria. That's why  
they save lives...except when they  
don't work.

Here's at least part of the problem:  
Antibiotics are routinely fed to cattle,  
hogs, and poultry to make them grow  
faster. That major—and unnecessary—use  
boosts the odds that bacteria will  
become immune to antibiotics. And if  
you happen to get an infection caused  
by one of those resistant bacteria, the  
antibiotic your doctor prescribes could  
be useless. That could kill you.

We have filed a petition with the  
Food and Drug Administration asking  
that medically useful antibiotics be  
banned from animal feed. You can  
help by signing and mailing this  
coupon or, better yet, by writing or  
e-mailing in your own words.

To: Commissioner Jane E. Henney  
Parklawn Building, Rm. 14-71  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857  
(JHENNEY@oc.fda.gov)

From: Joyce Kassel  
34 Dupont St.  
Dumont, NJ 07628

As a member of the Center for Science in  
the Public Interest (CSPI), I urge you to  
save human lives by banning the use of  
medically useful antibiotics in animal feed.  
Adding antibiotics to feed in order to pro-  
mote growth can make bacteria resistant  
to those antibiotics. And that can leave  
physicians with no way to treat life-threat-  
ening bacterial infections in humans. That's  
why I support the petition filed by CSPI.

The contents of NAH are not intended to provide personal  
medical advice, which should be obtained from a qualified  
health professional.

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changes in government and corporate policies.

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